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CP06>U.S./NAZI WAR>RATHER: As atrocious as Reder's crimes were, they paled <>CRIMINAL>beside horrors committed by the Nazi known as the 'angel of death,' Dr. Joseph Mengele. This war criminal has eluded justice. But new attention has been focused on him, and it concerns the possibility that he was arrested and freed by, among others, Americans 38 years ago. Bruce Morton reports.

MORTON: This is Auschwitz in Poland, the most notorious killing ground in Europe. In this concentration camp, where so many died, one man who lived was infamous. Dr. Joseph Mengele reportedly personally chose 400,000 who would die, 150,000 children, performed medical experiments on children, especially twins. PETER SOLMOGYI (concentration camp survivor): Little kids died from experiments. MARK BERKOWITZ (concentration camp survivor): Made it so that I would be able to watch my mother go through the gas chamber.

MORTON: After the war, Mengele disappeared, owned a house in Argentina, was briefly photographed in Paraguay. Using the Freedom of Information Act, the Nazi-hunting Simon Weisenthal Center got a document suggesting U.S. troops might have arrested Mengele in Vienna in 1947. The Pentagon disputes that. MICHAEL BURCH (Pentagon spokesman): Nothing that we've been able to come up with indicates that he was ever in our possession.

MORTON: The center got other documents suggesting that in 1962 someone using the name Joseph *Menke, someone who might have been Mengele, had applied for a visa to travel from Buenos Aires to Canada. Canada is investigating.

BRIAN MULRONEY (Canadian prime minister): I can think of nothing more offensive for any Canadian than to, to think that the government of Canada might inadvertently have been a party to his seeking to find refuge here.

RABBI MARVIN HIER (Simon Weisenthal Center): The only way we'll really know if there was a United States connection in the case of Dr. Joseph Mengele is with a vigorous investigation.

MORTON: The U.S. government has four more documents it has not yet released, one on security grounds, three because they involve a foreign country.

SEN. ALFONSE D'AMATO (R-N.Y.): The American public has a right to know.

MORTON: The State Department today referred questions to the Justice Department. The Justice Department said the whole question was under review. Other officials say maybe it shouldn't be up to Justice, maybe the National Archives is the place to search for clues or the Army's files or the CIA's. It is an old, cold trail, but there are reasons for pursuing it. SOLMOGYI: He should be brought to justice.

MORTON: Bruce Morton, CBS News, Washington. <